



Filipino American Society of Iowa

SECOND QUARTER NEWSLETTER



NEW LEARSHIP 2021

Our FAS Family would like to welcome our new officers and our new board members. We look forward to the experience and skills that they will bring to the organization. We are very thankful and grateful to have you all join the team!



Mitch Henry, our new FAS Board Member, is a U.S. Navy veteran. After leaving the Navy, he studied at Iowa State University and graduated with a B.A. in sociology in 1985. He was employed at the Iowa Democratic Party in various positions including outreach coordinator and caucus to convention director from 1988-1992. Following his work at the party, he worked at the Iowa Homeless Youth Centers from 1994-2005 as a case manager and program coordinator. Mr. Henry is currently the Chairman of the newly formed Iowa Unity Coalition and serves on the board of CICIL Iowa. He is also a registered lobbyist for LULAC Iowa.

Rev. Dr. Lilian Gallo Seagren is also one of our new Board member. She is an Ordained Clergy in the United Methodist Church, and currently the Pastor of Des Moines New Hope United Methodist Church as of July 1, 2019. Prior to her appointment to New Hope, she was a District Superintendent in the Iowa Annual Conference for seven years. In addition, she served in Fontanelle, Hamburg, Guthrie Center and Waterloo. Lilian's hometown is Solano, Nueva Vizcaya Region 2. She came to the United States in 1989 to attend school in Evanston, Illinois where she met Kirk, a classmate in seminary who became her husband. Kirk is from Iowa.



Lisa Green Westerman, our new FAS Secretary, is a classroom teacher with the Drake University Head Start program in Des Moines. She seeks to positively impact the lives of children, many of whom come from varied and different cultural backgrounds. Her mother spent more than a decade working with Iowa's diverse migrant and refugee populations, giving young Lisa significant first-hand exposure to the realities of their lives. Lisa has been highly involved and supportive of FAS for over a year by volunteering with Pagtulong Day events. She has an adult son Ian and a young daughter Sophia. A native of California, Lisa now calls Valley Junction, Iowa her home.

Francis Jayoma, our new Public Relations Officer, was born in Manila and raised in Iowa City, Iowa. Inspired by the work ethics from his parents as he assisted working at his father's business (the first Filipino-centered grocery store in the Eastern Iowa area) at a young age of 8, Francis dedicates his time supporting the Asian American community in Iowa. Francis is a 2020 graduate from Iowa State University with a background in Finance and Psychology. He spent time advocating and organizing events for several Asian-interest communities on campus including the Asian Student Union, Filipino Students Association, and Pi Alpha Phi (the only Asian-interest Fraternity on campus). At the moment, he works in the banking industry as a staff member. Outside of work Francis enjoys traveling, lifting, and photography. He is mission-driven. He is eager to meet people and get to know the Filipino community in the DSM area.



FILIPINO AMERICAN SOCIETY OF IOWA

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EVERYDAY MOVEMENT AS SELF DEFENSE 2021



FAS was proud to join with the Barongan Kempo School of Karate to offer small group self-defense workshops. Owners Colleen & Angelito 'Bobby' Barongan and several other instructors volunteered their time and skill to show attendees how to defend themselves against unexpected physical attacks. Also on hand to show support and share important safety information were Sgt. Doua Lor of the Des Moines Police Department and Polk County Sheriff Kevin Schneider.

Attendees were shown how to use basic things they already do as a defense against attack. This included instruction on holding your car keys in such a way to use them as a weapon, if needed, and how the hand movements used when placing a sheet on your bed can also be the motions that can help deflect the actions of an attacker. These family-friendly workshops also had young people on hand to help other young people attending learn how to do the actions in a way that was suited to their age group.

The event was part of FAS' ongoing support of our Filipino community in Central Iowa, and the greater Asian population as well, during this time of heightened awareness of potential anti-Asian aggression.

FAS and the Barongans will be looking for opportunities to provide similar workshops in the future. Watch the FAS Facebook page or other FAS social media to keep up to date on these and other future events.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Our FAS Family would also like to welcome two new Scholarship Committee members Roxy Strike and Farfum Ladroma. We look forward to the expertise both of them will bring to the team!



Farfum Ladroma is a Cebu City native who moved to the United States at a young age and became an Iowa transplant. Farfum works in higher education administration. Currently, he is the Testing Center and Academic Achievement Center Coordinator at Des Moines Area Community College's (DMACC) Urban Campus. He oversees institutional testing and assessments, tutoring services, disability services, and many other district-wide initiatives. Farfum is married to Ashley, a Registered Nurse and childbirth educator. They have three children and reside in the Lower Beaver neighborhood of Des Moines. Farfum enjoys cycling, gardening, traveling, and other outdoor adventures with his family.

Roxy Strike is the daughter of Filipina and Pakistani immigrants. Born in Dallas, Texas, and raised in Iowa. She has a background as a communications professional and political staffer. After graduating from Southern Methodist University, she worked as an editor for the Des Moines Register Weeklies Division and then in public relations with a variety of clients from snack foods to economic development groups. She's worked on campaigns as a field and finance staffer, and now helps set up and run online stores for progressive organizations. Roxy dedicates her free time to advocating for issues close to her heart - particularly animal rights, health care reform and immigrant rights; trying (and failing) to cook Filipino food that tastes just like her mom's; crafting, and dying her hair unnatural colors. Through her work and activism, Roxy strives everyday to be the embodiment of her parents' American Dream. Roxy lives in Ames, Iowa, with her husband, CJ, and their three cats, Orion, Stormy and Apollo.



THE ROAD AHEAD IN 2021

Though COVID-19 remains a very serious reality for us all, we are hopeful that we can begin looking at returning to some element of “normal” as 2021 is underway. With that in mind, the FAS leadership team have mapped out the following events for the coming year. **Be sure to mark your calendars and RSVP for these events at www.FASiowa.com!**

FAS HAS TALENT

Come show off your talent on Saturday **May 15th**! Do you play musical instrument, dance, sing, juggle or have another talent? This is a family friendly event, and all ages are welcome to perform. We will be awarding trophies to the top performers. This event is free to attend. It will be a great show and fun time for those that want to come and watch. We will be selling pizza, walking tacos, cookies and drinks. There will be a chance raffle where you can win some great items!

FAS GOLF TOURNAMENT/PIG ROAST PICNIC

The first golf outing in 2019 was a great success and we look to resume it in the morning of **July 31**, with the annual Pig Roast Picnic taking place in the afternoon and evening.

PISTA SA NAYON

Our annual celebration of the Filipino culture will be held this year on **October 2**.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

We look forward to returning to the in-person event that salutes and recognizes those who have proudly served our country in uniform on **November 13**.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

By the end of 2021 we sincerely hope that we will all be able to look back on 2021 and be able to embrace the joy of our lives moving beyond the world we've been living in for this past year. We will be joining together to share food, sing Christmas carols, and even have a visit from Santa himself on **December 11**.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR COMMUNITY

FAS has launched a new use of social media in 2021 intended to help our Filipino-American community get to know each other better, and to help our neighbors at large get to know all of us better. The “Getting to Know Our Community” series features short video interviews posted quarterly. There will be two categories: an FAS Associate spotlights and spotlighting a Filipino businesses and business owners. These are posted to the FAS YouTube channel and Facebook page – so be watching! (If you have not already “liked” the FAS Facebook page, be sure to get that done so you don’t miss any announcements.)

FAS Needs You!

From Paul Smith, FAS Vice President

The Filipino-American Society of Iowa exists to promote a maintaining, preserving, and promoting of Filipino heritage as Filipino-Americans integrate into an American heritage. This is a wonderful, inspiring, and educational journey. But it also costs – in both money and time.

Prior to 2020, FAS Associates knew that when they joined or renewed with the organization that their dues would be used to help fund the various events and activities which FAS did during the year. But in 2020 most of those things were cancelled. This also meant that some FAS Associates may have felt that being an FAS Associate would not matter as much until we started doing events again. It's completely understandable why some might feel this way, but I just wanted to share why FAS needs it's Associates now more than ever.

As we look at resuming activities and events in 2021, those efforts will take money and they will take volunteers. While FAS does have funds in our account, it often takes much more money upfront to host an event that a lot of people realize. We do try to cover some of the expenses through sponsorships or contributions, sometimes we even have a ticket or admission price. All of this is necessary to make sure the activities can happen and that FAS remains financially health and fiscally responsible with Associate's money.

2020 did slow us down quite a bit. Not only were not able to host events, some of which do bring in funds, but we also were unable to remain in close communication with everyone which means we've started to lose connection and recruiting of volunteers to help make the events flourish. Now as we prepare to hopefully begin being more active and doing more things – we need our FAS Associates to stand with us and renew.

We also want to extend a very warm, welcoming hand of friendship to those who are part of the Central Iowa Filipino-American community who may not currently be FAS Associates. We would LOVE to have you join us, too! Together we can relaunch our efforts in 2021 with a renewed energy and fire that will truly capture the excitement of the Filipino heritage that we seek to maintain, preserve, and promote!

Mabuhay!

-Paul Smith, FAS VP

Board of Directors & Officers



Luisita Dona Thompson
Founder & Exec Board Chairman



Larry McBurney
Executive Co-Chairman



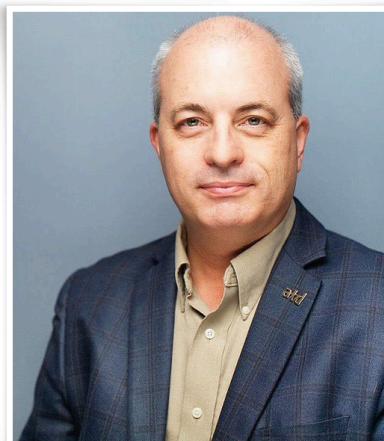
Mitch Henry
Board Member



Rev. Dr. Lilian Gallo Seagren
Board Member



Bobbie Van Roekel
President & Board Member



Paul Smith
Vice President



Lisa Westerman
Secretary



Ernesto Puzon III
Treasurer



Francis Angelo Diokno Jayoma
Public Relations



AnnaLyn Catipon Vida
Public Relations



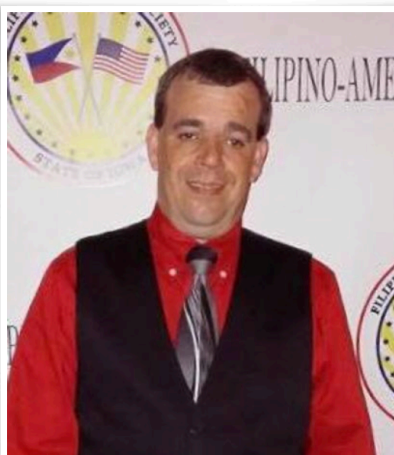
Divina Gerdeman
Public Relations



Thomas Benoit
Sgt at Arms



Vacant
Sgt at Arms



Steven Eckert
Scholarship Program Chairman



Vacant
Scholarship Program Co-Chairman



Melissa Eckert
Scholarship Program Committee



Roxy Strike
Scholarship Program Committee



Farfum Ladroma
Scholarship Program Committee